

March 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. with the following members and staff present:

- Mr. Greg Fountain, Chairman
- Mr. Gaius Bruce, Co-Chairman
- Ms. Shirley Brown, Committee Member
- Ms. Joanne Connor, Committee Member
- Mr. Kenneth Walter, Committee Member
- Ms. Leslie Statler, Planner I, Staff to the Committee
- Ms. Laurie Schulze, Office Assistant II, Staff to the Committee

Absent:

- Ms. Sharon Bryant, Chairman
- Ms. Sarah Hernandez, Committee Advisor

Mr. Greg Fountain opened the meeting by asking if there was discussion of the minutes from the February 10, 2009 meeting. There was none and Mr. Gaius Bruce moved to approve the minutes without objection.

The Board then moved on to consider the first item on the agenda.

The first case was TC's Front Porch (2009-NAARB-003). Mr. Robert Benaquis presented the project. He explained that in his opinion it is very attractive compared to what was there. He went on to say that the mermaid is loved by tourists who love to have their picture taken by it. Ms. Joanne Connor asked about the location. Mr. Benaquis stated that the signs are going to stay where they are now located. The Board then asked Ms. Leslie Statler if the signs comply with the County codes. Ms. Statler stated that the County does consider the mermaid and pirate décor items as signs, and they do comply with County codes. Ms. Shirley Brown stated that at one point she was receiving phone calls complaining about the signs, but has received none lately. Mr. Bruce asked why any action from the Board was necessary if the signs are in compliance. Ms. Statler responded that the signs were never approved. Mr. Fountain asked about the landscaping; he would have liked to have seen better landscaping that what is presently there. Mr. Benaquis agreed and said he would look into sprucing it up. There was general discussion between the Board and Mr. Benaquis regarding the landscaping.

Mr. Fountain asked if the Board had further questions. They did not. Mr. Bruce moved to approve the pirate and mermaid freestanding signs (monument style), the attached wall signs on columns and in the center of the building, no lighting, and improvements to the landscaping. Ms. Shirley Brown seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The second agenda item was Navarre Beach Flowers (2009-NAARB-005). Mike and Cecelia Cappella, owners of Navarre Beach Flowers, presented the project. Ms. Cappella stated that she was aware that the colors are considered energetic bright, and they could leave the signage as it is now, but they really wanted to improve the look. Mr. Cappella showed the Board the original sign design they wanted to use. The Board was in favor of the original sign design with a single day-lily vice the bouquet of flowers that looked very busy. The Board discussed the colors and Mr. Cappella stated that the day-lily was an actual photo of the flower, reproduced on the computer. Mr. Walter said he didn't think the picture of the flower looked energetic bright, and stated that it is a nature picture. Mr. Fountain stated that there should be a stipulation that specific allows pictures of nature, in their natural colors. The Board discussed that option, and it was decided that the flower on the sign would be limited to 1/3 (33%) of the sign face area. This will set a precedence for future applications similar to this one. The Board then discussed the coloring of the lettering and the background. Mr. Bruce stated that if the lettering and background colors were changed he would accept the sign. Ms. Cappella looked at the color palette and chose "Afterglow" (SW 6667) and "Humble Glow" (SW 6380) as colors to be used for the background. The Board also suggested that the lettering from the previously proposed sign (with the bouquet of roses) be used on the approved sign. The color presented was comparable to Sherman Williams "Shamrock" (SW 6454) and was outlined in a color comparable to Sherman Williams "Dragon Fruit" (SW 6855).

Ms. Connor then asked about the skirting and the painting of the pole. Ms. Cappella said they were going to paint the pole. Mr. Cappella asked if the sign was grandfathered in, therefore not requiring skirting. Ms. Connor asked at what point, or what percentage of work done, would disqualify it from being grandfathered in. Ms. Statler stated that since the modifications are to the sign face only, the poles would not be required to be skirted.

Mr. Bruce moved to approve the freestanding signage as presented at the meeting with the conditions that the background and letters on the sign comply with approved colors, the flower not exceed 33% of the sign face, the flower colors be allowed with the condition that they are a picture of nature, sign poles be painted, and landscaping added to the base of the poles. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The third agenda item was "Battle Karts" (2009-NAARB-006). Mr. James Lopez presented the project and stated that this is the first world-wide go-kart paintball and it was 10 years in the making. Mr. Lopez went on to explain that there will also be wood ball, paint-ball in the woods. Ms. Connor asked if you can see this from the street. Mr. Lopez said there would be karts and structures up front, and bunkers in netting, with the netting all around. Ms. Connor asked what the bunkers were made out of. Mr. Lopez said they were made out of plastic, but can be made out of different things and different materials. The Board discussed the various options, including a fence. Mr. Fountain said this was a great facility but not in the heart of Navarre. Mr. Walter stated that the Board can't go in and ask Mr. Lopez to change the parts of his business; however, Mr. Walter does have problems with the netting. Mr. Lopez explained that the net is on a cable. Ms. Connor asked if he could add a 3 or 4 foot landscape buffer in front of the netting, to include evergreens or pampass grass. Ms. Lopez explained that this is a rental property with a lease from April through October. During the winter, this property becomes a Christmas tree stand. Mr. Bruce asked if everything would be taken down during the off-season. Mr. Lopez said yes, everything is removable. Ms. Connor asked about the mulch that is there now; will there be dirt added? Mr. Lopez stated that the mulch will stay; because there is no dirt there will be no ruts. Ms. Connor stated that if this business keeps coming back she won't like it. Mr. Walter stated that they can't keep the business out and stated that Mr. Lopez has to have a net for safety. Mr. Walter went on to say that a little landscaping would look nice, and that he would be willing to allow the netting for the first year only. Mr. Bruce asked about signage. Mr. Lopez stated that the only signage is on the side of the trailer and word of mouth. The trailer will leave the property each night with them as the karts are very pricey. Ms. Connor asked if there would be lighting and Mr. Lopez stated no, the business will run from 11:00 a.m. to dusk.

Mr. Bruce moved to approve the project, as presented, with the stipulation that if the business returns in the future, the Board reserves the right to re-review it for architectural compatibility and may require landscaping. Mr. Walter seconded. The motion was approved with Mr. Fountain opposing.

The Board moved on to the final agenda item, "Higher Ground Coffee & Tea Company" (2009-NAARB-007). There was no one in attendance to present the project. Mr. Walter made a motion to approve the project as presented. Ms. Connor seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Statler then began the discussion of the Planning Department matters. She gave the Board updates on the compliance issues previously brought up by the Board. She stated that the Mr. James Dular with TamTeck Pools had turned in an application for the freestanding sign, and would be on the April agenda.

Ms. Susan Haddock introduced herself to the Board. She works with an architectural landscaping company, and attends the meetings as her schedule permits. Ms. Statler asked if she would be interested in applying for membership to the Board and stated that there was a vacancy with applications being accepted through Friday. Ms. Statler went on to tell Ms. Haddock that the application was on-line, and then addressed the Board and asked if they had seen the new look on the County web-site. Ms. Statler said she would e-mail the link to the Board members.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Board on April 14, 2009